GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4534
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002
NATIONAL PULSES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the National Pulses Development Project while all the fundsallocated were fully utilized the physical targets could not be achieved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the country has been importing pulses to meet the demand;

(d) if so, the quantum of pulses imported in each of the last three years and involvement of foreign exchange therein; and

(e) the measures Government propose to take to increase the production of pulses and reduce the imports?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The physical targets for production could not be achieved because production of pulses is dependent upon the behaviour of the monsoon. In additon, pulses are generally grown under rainfed conditions and on marginal and sub-marginal lands where the crop often suffers due to moisture stress. More over the area coverage and production of pulses also suffered during 2000-2001 due to drought like conditions prevailing in the major pulses producing States.

(c)&(d): The import of pulse is under OGL due to which there is no restriction onimport of pulses. The details of quantum of pulses imported during last 3 years are given below:-

Year	Quantity imported (Lakh tones)	Value (Rs. Crore)
1999-2000	2.51	354.69
2000-2001	3.48	493.79
2001-2002 (up to Dec., 2001)	16.56	2344.18

(e): For increasing the production of pulses in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 30States/U.Ts. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the States for productionand distribution of seed, distribution of minikits, rhyzobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, micro-nutrient etc. Field demonstrations are also organized for transfer of production and protection technology to the farmers for increasing the production of pulses in the country.

In addition to the steps mentioned above, the Government of India has recentlyincreased the import duty on pulses to reduce the import of pulses in the country.